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Letter dated 17 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom in November 2010 (see annex). The report was prepared under my national responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

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Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (November 2010)

Introduction

During the month of November 2010, under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, Mark Lyall Grant, the Security Council held 16 consultations of the whole and 18 formal meetings, including 2 private and 16 public meetings.

The public meetings included one at the ministerial level. On 16 November, the Council convened a high-level meeting on the Sudan, under the presidency of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, William Hague.

In November 2010, the Council adopted five resolutions and three presidential statements and issued five statements to the press.

In November, the Security Council sought to improve its working methods, in particular by making its debates and consultations more interactive. Under "Other matters" on 30 November, the members of the Security Council considered these innovations. They agreed that it would be beneficial to the Council's work to streamline the introductions made by the presidency at the beginning of a meeting in the Security Council Chamber; to continue use of videoconferencing technology to provide updates from the field; and to hold more flexible and interactive consultations, including by reducing the use of speaker lists, recognizing that not all Council members may wish to speak on all issues and making better use of "Other matters" to discuss issues of current concern.

They further agreed to consider ways of enhancing the Council's engagement on conflict prevention, including by devoting more time to this issue, developing the concept of a monthly briefing by the Department of Political Affairs, and making more use of high-level events to discuss issues of current concern. They also agreed to consider how to refresh Security Council informal formats, such as "Arria meetings"; and whether to divide the November debate in the General Assembly on the Security Council annual report and on reform of the Security Council into two separate sessions, the better to give each issue full consideration.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 3 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-Jin, briefed the Security Council, via videoconference from Abidjan, on the 31 October presidential elections. He reported that the elections had

passed off peacefully, with no major incidents reported. A second-round run-off would take place on 28 November. The Special Representative outlined the main challenges in the second round environment, including improving the Independent Electoral Commission's capacity, and confirmed that the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) would continue to support the electoral process, including through maintaining the temporary 500-troop uplift agreed in October.

In the consultation that followed, Security Council members welcomed the peaceful environment in which the first round had been held and hoped that this positive momentum would continue in the second round. They commended the role played by the Special Representative and UNOCI, as well as by the Facilitator, Blaise Compaoré, the President of Burkina Faso. Some members of the Security Council reminded Ivorian stakeholders that any grievances must be filtered through the appropriate legal channels.

The members of the Security Council agreed on a statement to the press in which they welcomed the holding of elections on 31 October and the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNOCI, and urged all stakeholders to be fully committed to a democratic, peaceful and transparent completion of the electoral process and to accept the results that would be proclaimed and certified through the established mechanisms.

On 24 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1951 (2010), authorizing a temporary redeployment from the United Nations Mission in Liberia to UNOCI for a period of no more than four weeks, a maximum of three infantry companies, and an aviation unit comprising two military utility helicopters, to provide additional capacity during the second-round presidential election period.

The members of the Security Council agreed on a statement to the press in which they reaffirmed their welcome for the first round of the presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire on 31 October; urged the two candidates to maintain a calm and peaceful atmosphere; expressed their vigilance as regards those who obstruct peace and electoral process, as set out by resolution 1946 (2010); and expressed their full support for UNOCI and the certification mandate of the Special Representative.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 24 November, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Maria Luiza Viotti, briefed the Council on the work of the Committee, and summarized the Group of Experts' final report (S/2010/596), highlighting that foreign and Congolese armed groups had increasingly formed coalitions, including with a view to competing for control over mineral-rich areas. Council members commended the Group's work, particularly their recommendations for guidelines on due diligence and their good cooperation with the Governments in the Great Lakes region and with relevant regional bodies.

On 29 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1952 (2010), renewing the sanctions regime for a further 12 months and expressing the Security Council's support in taking forward the recommendations on due diligence guidelines.

Guinea

On 18 November, during consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Said Djinnit, briefed the Council on developments in Guinea since the announcement of the provisional election results on 15 November. He said that, after a period of clashes resulting in 10 deaths and over 300 injuries, the situation had calmed. Following calls from the United Nations and regional organizations on the presidential candidates to refrain from any activity that could incite violence, the candidates had appealed to their supporters to remain calm and had reaffirmed their commitment to national reconciliation. The Special Representative stressed the need for long-term assistance to Guinea to support national reconciliation, rule of law, the development of national institutions, security sector reform and socio-economic development.

In the discussion that followed, Council members noted the historic nature of the elections and the progress achieved in the country since the events of 28 September 2009. They condemned the post-election violence and stressed the need to conclude the electoral process peacefully, for the results to be respected and for the two candidates to adhere to their commitments to abide by the proper legal processes and avoid any action that could destabilize the situation. After the meeting, the President of the Council delivered remarks to the press, underlining these points.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 November, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, Joseph Mutaboba, on the situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Maria Luiza Viotti, the Permanent Representative of Brazil; the Special Envoy of the African Union, Sebastião Isata; and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, João Soares Da Gama, also briefed the Council.

The Special Representative expressed concern over the lack of progress on security sector reform, impunity and drug trafficking. He welcomed the joint road map of the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries on support to State institutions and security sector reform. Clear commitments from the Government on military restructuring were needed in order to generate greater international support for security sector reform. He stressed the importance of achieving national reconciliation through political dialogue and addressing youth employment, and called on parties to seize the important window of opportunity to enhance security sector reform and fighting against drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau. He also called for more international assistance to tackle drug trafficking, and advocated robust action, including sanctions, against those involved in illicit trafficking.

The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration briefed the Council on the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, including its discussions with the Government of Guinea-Bissau about the need to restore international confidence in the security sector reform process. She said that more international support was needed and commended the road map. The Special Envoy of the African Union spoke of positive developments in the country. The Permanent Representative of

Guinea-Bissau said that the Government of Guinea-Bissau was committed to security sector reform and fighting drug trafficking.

In consultations of the whole that followed, members of the Security Council stressed their continuing concern over the situation and the growth in drug trafficking. They underlined the need for the Guinea-Bissau authorities to take responsibility for reform of the security sector, fighting impunity, releasing illegal detainees and tackling drug trafficking. They also welcomed the road map and hoped that this could be taken forward promptly. Many members called for continuing international support and assistance for Guinea-Bissau and supported the role played by the Peacebuilding Commission. After the meeting, the President of the Council delivered remarks to the press, underlining those points.

On 23 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1949 (2010), renewing the current mandate of UNIOGBIS until 31 December 2011.

Somalia

On 29 November, in consultations, the Permanent Representative of Mexico, Claude Heller, updated the Council on the work of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea. The Committee had met twice to discuss reports by the United Nations Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia. The Permanent Representative noted that the Monitoring Group had been established and was now operating from Nairobi. It was issuing monthly reports of its activities and had already identified a range of possible sanctions violations. Council members called on Member States to implement the sanctions fully and cooperate with the Monitoring Group. They expressed concern at the declining contributions to the Somalia humanitarian fund.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1916 (2010) on Somalia, the Council also conducted its second 120-day review of the measures contained in that paragraph. The Council agreed on a statement to the press, confirming that the review had taken place based on all available information, including the report of the Humanitarian Coordinator dated 23 November 2010.

On 30 November, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Somalia. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, briefed the Council by videoconference. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra, briefed the Council on the work of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and possible options for financing AMISOM.

The Special Representative welcomed the appointment of the new Transitional Federal Government cabinet and stressed the need to operationalize the Transitional Federal Government's ministries. The United Nations political strategy involved two tracks: achieving progress on the security, political, humanitarian and governance situations in Mogadishu; and engagement by the international community and the Transitional Federal Government with the semi-autonomous regions in South-Central Somalia. The Special Representative said that an increase in AMISOM troop numbers would help his political strategy succeed by expanding the Transitional Federal Government's control over the whole of Mogadishu. This would give them greater space to make progress on the ground. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support said that the United Nations support package to AMISOM had helped

improve troop conditions, but that some AMISOM activities were not adequately funded. The Secretariat had submitted options to the Security Council on funding for AMISOM. They were also working closely with the African Union and some Member States to refine the African Union's concept of operations.

Security Council members welcomed the appointment of the new Transitional Federal Government cabinet. It now needed to make progress on the transitional tasks, in particular the constitutional process and the delivery of services to the people. They discussed proposals by the African Union regarding AMISOM, in particular the number of AMISOM troops. They agreed to take forward work on the renewal of the Security Council's authorization of the Mission's mandate. After the meeting, the President made oral remarks to the press, underlining the Council's support for the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM.

Somalia piracy

On 9 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Security Council on the Secretary-General's latest report on piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yuri Fedotov, briefed the Council on the Office's recent activities. The Permanent Representative of Somalia also made a statement.

The Under-Secretary-General told the Council that the root causes of piracy lay in the instability in Somalia. He stressed the need to address security and the rule of law, as well as the economic drivers of piracy, in particular ransom payments, impunity and prosecution and imprisonment. He informed the Council that the Special Adviser on legal issues related to piracy off the coast of Somalia, Jack Lang, would present the findings of his investigation into prosecution options by the end of the year.

The Executive Director briefed the Council on the Office's counter-piracy programme. He praised Kenya, Seychelles, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania and Maldives for their role in prosecutions. A solution was needed for problems relating to imprisonment.

The Permanent Representative of Somalia, Ahmed Duale, told the Council that the root causes of piracy must be addressed, and expressed gratitude for the work of the United Nations and Member States in tackling piracy.

In subsequent consultations, Security Council members commended the counter-piracy activities undertaken by the international naval presence and stressed the need to bring greater stability and economic normalization to Somalia. Concerns were raised about the payment of ransoms, and the need to investigate financial flows from piracy. Council members looked forward to the Special Adviser's report.

On 23 November, the Council adopted resolution 1950 (2010), which renewed the authorization for the use of force to combat piracy in Somalia for a further 12 months.

Sudan

On 11 November, the Security Council held consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Haile Menkerios, Force

Commander Major-General Moses Obi and other members of the UNMIS senior leadership team participated by videolink from Khartoum and Juba. In New York, staff from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Office of the Military Adviser joined the meeting.

The Special Representative and the Force Commander briefed the Council on current challenges, including preparations for the Southern Sudan referendum on 9 January and contingency planning and repositioning of UNMIS forces to manage any potential escalation of violence during that period.

The meeting was a clear demonstration of the value of improved consultations between troop and police contributors, the Secretariat and mission leadership and the Security Council.

On 16 November, the Security Council held a ministerial-level debate on the Sudan. The meeting, chaired by the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, William Hague, was attended by six ministers for foreign affairs and two deputy ministers for foreign affairs. The Secretary-General; the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan, the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, Ali Karti; and the Minister of Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement Implementation of the Government of South Sudan, Pagan Amum, also participated and briefed the Council. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/24) in which it called for full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the holding of the referenda on the self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan and on the status of Abyei, and for a peaceful, comprehensive and inclusive resolution of the situation of Darfur.

The Secretary-General observed that this was a critical moment for the Sudanese people. He called for a credible, transparent South Sudan referendum that reflected the aspirations of the population, and underlined the responsibility of the Sudanese parties in this regard. He urged progress on post-referendum arrangements and Abyei. He further stressed the need for a comprehensive and inclusive settlement in Darfur, and expressed concern about the impact of renewed hostilities on civilians and called for full access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and humanitarian workers.

The Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, joining the meeting by audiolink from Johannesburg, welcomed the start of voter registration for the South Sudan referendum, and briefed the Council on other recent developments, including in the negotiations on post-referendum arrangements and Abyei. He stressed the need to reach peace in Darfur, including through a Darfur-Darfur conference, and for improvements in the security situation to facilitate voluntary returns.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan stressed the achievements made by the parties in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He reaffirmed the Government of the Sudan's commitment to hold the referendum on South Sudan in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to respect the outcome. He encouraged the Security Council to adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing the question of Abyei and outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues.

The Minister of Peace underlined that the referendum on South Sudan must take place on 9 January and the result must be respected. Recognizing its economic interdependence with the North, the South would always be a good neighbour.

Security Council members welcomed the start of registration for the South Sudan referendum, called for the referendum to be held on time and in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and said that the outcome must be respected. They called for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement parties to redouble their efforts to resolve Abyei and underlined the importance of full access and freedom of movement for UNMIS. The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom said that full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement would be essential for a peaceful and prosperous future for all Sudanese people. Council members called for progress towards peace in Darfur and for all rebel groups to engage in the Doha peace process without delay or preconditions. They expressed concern about the security situation in Darfur, including renewed fighting, kidnappings and attacks on peacekeepers, and underlined the need for full access for UNAMID. Some Council members underlined the need for an end to impunity, and for justice for crimes committed in Darfur.

After the briefings, the Security Council held consultations of the whole. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur, Ibrahim Gambari, joined the meeting by videolink from Khartoum.

Western Sahara

On 16 November, the Security Council held consultations of the whole to discuss Western Sahara. The members of the Security Council were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, on the 8 November violence in the Gdaim Izyk camp and city of Laayoune and the difficulties experienced by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in gaining access to the camp. Security Council members deplored the violence, and expressed their condolences over the deaths and injuries that had resulted. They reaffirmed their support for MINURSO.

The members of the Security Council also heard a briefing by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Christopher Ross. He reported that there had been little progress, but the parties had agreed to continue informal negotiations. They had also agreed to an immediate resumption of family visits by air and a review of the implementation of confidence-building measures in December at a meeting under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Members of the Security Council offered their full support for the Personal Envoy's ongoing efforts and urged the parties to demonstrate further political will towards a solution.

After the meeting, the President of the Council delivered remarks to the press, underlining the support for MINURSO and the work of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, and urging the parties to demonstrate further political will towards a solution.

Asia and Latin America

Haiti

On 30 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, briefed the Council in consultations on the 28 November presidential and legislative elections and the cholera epidemic. He briefed the Council on reports of violence and unrest throughout the country during the elections, which had followed allegations of fraud and threats of withdrawal from the leading candidates. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti had agreed with the Organization of American States/Caribbean Community observer mission's conclusion that, despite significant irregularities, the election results should not be invalidated. Turning to the cholera epidemic, he urged an increased response from the international community.

Members of the Security Council expressed concern about the situation in Haiti after elections and the impact of the cholera epidemic. They called on the parties to show restraint and encouraged the presidential candidates to work for calm at this difficult time for the Haitian people.

Myanmar

On 18 November, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Vijay Nambiar, briefed the Security Council in consultations on the situation in Myanmar, in particular the 7 November national elections and 13 November release of Aung San Suu Kyi. He said that the two events could have profound implications for the country. The Special Adviser set out three priorities for the good offices process: United Nations consultation with the people of Myanmar; United Nations support to the authorities in creating the conditions for national reconciliation; and United Nations assistance to Myanmar in terms of its development goals.

Security Council members welcomed Aung San Suu Kyi's release and reaffirmed their support for the good offices role of the Secretary-General. Some members welcomed the elections as a significant event and called on the international community, and especially the United Nations, to provide long-term political, economic and humanitarian support to Myanmar. Others noted it as a flawed process, called for the release of all political prisoners and expressed the expectation that Aung San Suu Kyi would have full freedom of movement and be able to participate in political life. They also underlined the need for concrete steps towards a fully democratic Government, including an inclusive reconciliation process and genuine dialogue with all parties in Myanmar.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 11 November, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, presented his latest report to the Security Council. The Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nebojša Radmanović was in attendance. The Permanent Representative of Croatia, Ranko Vilović, and the Permanent Representative of Serbia, Feodor Starčević, also participated.

The High Representative said that the overall political picture in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained difficult. There had been some positive developments, including visa-free travel for Bosnians within the Schengen area of the European Union, and progress in reconciliation with Serbia. But there had been almost no progress in the last year towards completing the "5+2" objectives and conditions.

The Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina stressed the progress that had been made in the 15 years since Dayton. Other Security Council members congratulated the Chair on his re-election and most welcomed the holding of free and fair elections, the European Union decision on visa-free travel, and the improvement in regional relationships. They called for the full implementation of Dayton; called for the mandate of the European Union-led peacekeeping force to be extended; condemned divisive and anti-Dayton rhetoric; encouraged the quick formation of coalitions; and expressed their support for the Office of the High Representative.

On 18 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1948 (2010), in which it renewed the authorization for the European Union-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Cyprus

On 30 November, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, briefed the Security Council on the latest developments in the Cyprus settlement talks. The Special Adviser said that the pace of progress had been slow. The main sticking point had been the property chapter. Although both sides had made efforts to tackle the issue seriously, the lack of progress was worrying. At their 18 November meeting with the Secretary-General in New York, the two leaders had agreed to intensify their contacts over the coming weeks in order to develop a plan for overcoming all major points of disagreement. They would meet again with the Secretary-General at the end of January to discuss implementation.

Council members expressed their support for the good offices process, and welcomed the Secretary-General's engagement on the issue. They urged increased momentum in the talks, and underlined the importance of being prepared for the January meeting with the Secretary-General. Most Council members also welcomed the opening of the Limnitis/Yeşilırmak crossing point, urged more progress on remaining confidence-building measures, and encouraged the leaders to engage in positive rhetoric.

Kosovo

On 12 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Lamberto Zannier, briefed the Security Council on implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, and Ms. Vlora Çitaku from Kosovo also participated.

The Special Representative updated the Council on developments over the previous three months. The overall situation remained calm but tensions had increased in the north following the issuance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. He said that all sides should exercise restraint and avoid unilateral actions. An early election had been announced for 12 December and the Special Representative hoped that they would be free and fair. He noted

progress, including the closure of the Cesmin Lug Roma camp, as well as challenges, such as missing persons and the returns process. He welcomed the General Assembly resolution adopted in September, and hoped that the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade would start soon.

Council members welcomed the continued role of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in promoting peace, and noted the importance of cooperation with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. They recognized overall stability in Kosovo but expressed concern about tensions in the north and called for restraint.

Middle East

Iraq

On 10 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ad Melkert, briefed the Security Council on the security situation and the political process. He said that although there had been a number of security incidents in recent weeks, there had been no overall increase in the number of security incidents per month compared with 2009. He listed the most recent attacks, including the 31 October attack on a Catholic church in Baghdad and the 10 November roadside bomb attacks in predominantly Christian areas. All Security Council members condemned the recent attacks and called for final formation of the Government of Iraq.

Members of the Security Council agreed on a statement to the press in which they condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks and the 19 October attack on the convoy of the Special Representative, and they expressed their deep condolences to the families of the victims. They strongly expressed their support for the continued efforts of the Government of Iraq to help meet the security needs of the entire population and urged all States to cooperate actively with the Iraqi authorities in that regard.

On 10 November, members of the Security Council heard a briefing on the Development Fund for Iraq from the United Nations Controller, Jun Yamazaki, and the Head of the Committee of Financial Experts, Abdul Basit Turky Saed. The Controller noted delays in the implementation of a comprehensive oil-metering system; the appointment of Price Waterhouse Coopers to audit the Development Fund for Iraq; and Iraqi progress in settling letters of credit on the oil-for-food programme. The Committee requested an extension to the Development Fund for a further 12 months. A number of Council members welcomed progress made by Iraq towards implementing resolution 1905 (2009), while noting there was more to be done, including on settling remaining oil-for-food claims and implementing the oil-metering system. A number of Council members also stressed the importance of transitioning rapidly from the Development Fund to a successor arrangement under the sovereign control of the Government of Iraq.

On 12 November, the Security Council met to discuss the situation in Iraq. The Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/23), welcoming the 11 November agreement to form a national partnership Government, encouraging Iraq's leaders to rededicate themselves to the pursuit of national

reconciliation, and reaffirming its commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Lebanon

On 5 November, under "Other matters" in consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, Patricia O'Brien, briefed the Council on the attacks on members of the investigation team from the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on 27 October.

On 18 November, the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, briefed the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

The Special Coordinator described Israel's decision to take steps (in accordance with its obligations under resolution 1701 (2006)) to withdraw its military forces from northern Ghajar, as a positive development. He and the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), General Asarta, would visit Israel soon to pursue next steps. He expressed concern about the increasing political tension over the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. He had stressed to all parties in Lebanon that they must abide by their commitments under the ministerial declaration of December 2009, which included the commitment to cooperate with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and to respect the work of State institutions. The Special Coordinator said that the President of the Lebanese Republic, Michel Sleiman, considered that resolution 1701 (2006) had worked well since its adoption in 2006, despite some violations. While recognizing the commitments made by all parties to the full implementation of the resolution, the Special Coordinator emphasized that these assertions should be matched by concrete steps to avoid incidents that could easily escalate into confrontation.

All Council members expressed concern about incidents along the Blue Line and called on parties to respect it, and in this context, encouraged them to cooperate with UNIFIL to prevent any escalation. They called for full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). Many Council members sought greater efforts to delineate the border with the Syrian Arab Republic, urged resumption of the national dialogue and expressed concern over Israel's violations of resolution 1701 (2006).

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 23 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. He said that the diplomatic impasse since the end of the settlement moratorium on 26 September was worrying. He encouraged the parties to engage seriously and make substantive progress quickly once talks resumed. He encouraged more sustainable financing for the Palestinian Authority's State-building plan. He expressed concern at the possible deterioration in access for international organizations between East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank as a result of the proposed changes to the administration of the crossings. Although the weekly number of truckloads entering Gaza had increased, the current figure of just over a thousand was far short of the 3,000 weekly truckloads entering in June 2007. The Under-Secretary-General noted that Palestinian militant groups had fired eight rockets and 41 mortars from Gaza into

Israel during the reporting period and condemned rocket fire, which indiscriminately endangered civilians.

In the consultations that followed, most Council members urged the resumption of direct negotiations. Many called on Israel to halt all settlement activity; underlined the need for further steps to ease restrictions on the flow of goods and people in and out of Gaza in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009); condemned rocket fire from Gaza; and called for progress on intra-Palestinian reconciliation.

Some Council members expressed support for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. They also welcomed Israel's decision in principle to withdraw from northern Ghajar, and stressed the need for the decision to be implemented quickly.

Other matters

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 11 November, as previously agreed by other members of the Council, the President of the Council introduced to the General Assembly the annual report of the Security Council, covering the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010 (A/65/2). The President of the Council said that the annual report showed that some long-running situations, including in the Middle East, Cyprus and Western Sahara remained unresolved, as did issues in which the Council had become engaged in recent years, including Nepal and Guinea-Bissau, that huge challenges also remained in the Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but that there had been some successes, and the Council had worked to make progress on all matters in what had been a very busy year. He also drew attention to the presidential note (S/2010/507) adopted by the Council on its working methods and stated that the Council would continue to consider ways of increasing its transparency.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: non-proliferation

In closed consultations on 29 November, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ertuğrul Apakan, introduced the regular 90-day report on the work of the Committee. In the report, the Committee noted that it had adopted a new programme of work, continued outreach to Member States through its Panel of Experts, and would study carefully the recommendations in the 10 November midterm report of the Panel of Experts.

In response, Council members noted that the Chair's briefing took place against a background of heightened tension in the Korean peninsula. They expressed concern at the recent reports of new light-water reactor and uranium enrichment facilities at Yongbyon, and encouraged the Committee and Panel to be more active and to accelerate their work. They welcomed the Panel of Experts' midterm report, and looked forward to the Committee considering its recommendations. Some also called for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 4 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, provided a horizon-scanning briefing to the Security Council, covering Guinea, Somalia, Yemen, the Lebanon Special Tribunal, the Middle East peace

process, Cyprus, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In the course of his briefing, he outlined obstacles to further progress in several areas and gave some indication of future plans for engagement by the Secretary-General and the Department of Political Affairs.

Security Council members welcomed the opportunity to share concerns on a wide-ranging agenda, and made suggestions for further focusing such discussion in the future. Some Council members reflected on a number of issues, including: (a) how the Security Council engages on the Middle East; (b) what more the Council can do about intractable challenges such as the Lord's Resistance Army; (c) how the Council can better link cross-cutting issues to a discussion of individual country situations; and (d) Council engagement on long-running political processes.

Counter-terrorism

On 15 November, the Security Council held its six-monthly briefing by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies concerned with counter-terrorism. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, Thomas Mayr-Harting noted the successful completion of the comprehensive review of the 1267 regime in July, looked forward to additional reviews under resolution 1904 (2009) and noted the appointment of the Ombudsperson, Kimberley Prost. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, Ertuğrul Apakan, highlighted the Counter-Terrorism Committee's use of thematic discussions, as well as greater transparency through open briefings from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and its recent regional capacity-building activities in East Africa, the Balkans and South-East Asia. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Claude Heller, highlighted his consultations with heads of relevant international organizations and some Member States on the future of the 1540 Committee, his work with other international organizations on coordinating assistance, and the latest regional 1540 implementation workshops in the Balkans and South-East Asia.

The Committee Chairs also offered valedictory observations in their personal capacities. The Chair of the 1267 Committee recommended dropping the Committee's consensus requirement for de-listing, and called for a triennial system of positive reconfirmation of listees. The Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee called for continuation of the Committee's more strategic and transparent approach, including organizing open briefings to the wider membership, greater attention to the prevention of terrorism, and a focus on capacity-building and outreach activities. The Chair of the 1540 Committee suggested that the next 1540 mandate should make better use of relationships with specialist bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Customs Organization, give the Group of Experts more specific benchmarks and responsibilities, consolidate the Committee's role as a facilitator of assistance, and consider lengthening the Committee's mandate.

Security Council members welcomed the restructured debate, which had allowed Committee Chairs to make forward-looking statements. Some Council members said that the next mandate of the Executive Directorate should have a greater focus on priority regions. Others focused on improving capacity-building

and outreach. All welcomed the work begun by the Ombudsperson, and welcomed the clearer and fairer procedures adopted for the 1267 regime.

Peacekeeping

On 24 November, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on current challenges to peacekeeping. They heard briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that peacekeeping mandates should define strategic goals more clearly, that the Security Council should increase its dialogue with troop-contributing countries and should help to generate sufficient resources for peacekeeping missions. The current shortage of mission helicopters was a particular concern. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support said that funding arrangements should be reviewed if the Organization was to ensure smooth transition from the drawdown of peacekeeping operations to peacebuilding offices.

In an interactive discussion, Security Council members considered a number of related themes, including the relationship between mandates and resources, and the need to ensure better coordination of all peacebuilding actors, and explored some possible ideas for addressing these challenges.

Protection of civilians

On 22 November, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, briefed the Council and introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2010/579). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, and the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Yves Daccord, also addressed the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs said that the Security Council's approach to protection had strengthened in the previous 18 months. But more work was needed on the five core challenges identified in resolution 1894 (2009), in particular on the humanitarian impact of explosive weapons. The Council should focus on tackling impunity and improving engagement with non-State actors for humanitarian access. She welcomed the work of the Informal Expert Group on the protection of civilians.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that peacekeepers should exert every effort to protect civilians but protection would depend on stable and legitimate State institutions. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations was developing: (a) guidance for missions on comprehensive protection strategies; (b) a training package for peacekeepers; (c) an evaluation of the resources required to implement protection mandates; and (d) a thorough study of mission planning.

The High Commissioner said that human rights protection and the provision of humanitarian aid were linked. In Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, the Council had established broader mandates to ensure protection of human rights. But to be effective monitors, human rights officers needed to be present on the ground, in

particular in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, where access was currently impeded.

The Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross said that a lack of respect for international humanitarian law by State and non-State actors, and a culture of impunity were fundamental reasons why civilians were not protected.

Many Security Council members and representatives of Member States recalled the core challenges of resolution 1894 (2009): (a) access for humanitarian actors; (b) enhanced compliance with international law, including by non-State actors; and (c) the important role of effective peacekeeping. Some expressed concerns over the indiscriminate effect of explosive weapons on civilian populations. Others recalled the importance of national responsibility for civilian protection.

The Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/25), taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians (S/2010/579) and its recommendations; recalling the 15 March 2002 aide memoire on key protection issues and adopting the updated aide memoire contained in the annex to the statement; and addressing the core challenges of resolution 1894 (2009).